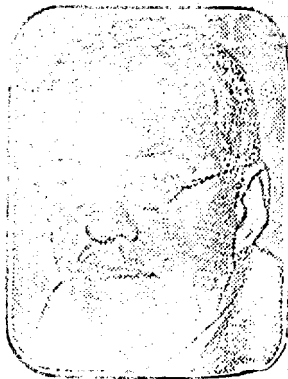


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NEW WOES FOR AN OLD WHIPPING BOY

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The Central Intelligence Agency has been getting its temper of late for putting American students—and others—to speak up for their nation abroad. Seems that for 15 years the CIA has been slipping money to the National Student Association to send members to international student meetings.



Allen Dulles

The presence of the Americans, so went CIA's reasoning, would keep the Commies from turning said meetings into Marxist echo chambers.

On the word of Allen Dulles, former CIA head, they did just that. He points out that Moscow hasn't tried to rig up one of its tame student hoedowns since 1962.

Moreover, the students weren't asked to do any cloak and dagger work for CIA. Few, in fact, knew that the money for their travel came from that sinister center of intrigue.

As far as anyone can determine, the same can be said of others who took CIA money under the counter. The list is long and among the better known organizations was the American Newspaper Guild.

According to ANG officers, no one in the union knew the CIA was playing sugar daddy to its international activities. So apparently the money came with no strings attached.

Not by one decibel did such considerations lower the din created by liberals and assorted CIA-haters. To the long list of wrongs they hold against the agency was added the ultimate outrage—corruption of yoot.

Among the more ear-wearying bleats were those from the academic community, many of whom enjoy free-time travel on the cuff from some government agency.

About all that was accomplished in the end was to give NSA and others a black eye and drag the CIA once more into the spotlight—the last place a spy outfit should be.

Which brings to mind the recent difficulties of the U.S. Information Agency—

THE BLOOD BROTHER OF THE CIA

—as another dabbler in the political black arts. USIA's job—bluntly—is propaganda abroad. . . . Remember that word abroad.

Several months ago USIA Director Leonard Marks raised hackles in Congress by admitting that some of his agency's specially prepared and bottled material found its way into the home market.

It went something like this. USIA buys a lot of books to present American views in other lands. When it can't find a book on a particular subject—with the right slant—it sometimes has one written.

Publishers May Sell Books in U.S. Once published, USIA buys part of the output for its libraries overseas. But the publisher, Marks said, is free to sell copies in the U.S. if he wishes.

Need . . . Nor do they bear the USIA label since that, as Marks put it delicately, would reduce their value in the eyes of foreign readers.

They might also deceive the unwary at home. While this is not a pleasant thought, it hardly justifies some of the more frantic cries of government thought manipulation that followed Marks' admissions.

More likely you can put down the occasional clumsiness and indiscretion of the CIA and USIA to lack of finesse in—

A FIELD NEW TO AMERICANS

—and one which the American public only reluctantly accepts.

Perhaps what we need is a school where our propagandists not only could learn to do their job effectively but could also be instructed in how to do it adroitly—and out of the public eye.

The public could use some educating, too. Espionage and propaganda are tools of statecraft as old as man. It may pain us to use them, but we cannot afford to do without them.

Right in the laws that created our spy and propaganda agencies are ample safeguards to see that they do not step out of line—or to kick them back in line if they do.

Their activities will not be made any safer—or more effective—by periodic wrangling that puts them on public exhibition.